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NOTE VERBALE DATED 10 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ZAIRE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zaire to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to transmit the following position of Zaire on the draft resolution under discussion in the Security Council concerning the lifting of the arms embargo imposed by the Council.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zaire has taken note of the draft resolution under discussion in the Security Council concerning the lifting of the embargo on the supply of arms to Rwanda, a draft that was put forward by the United States of America, a permanent member of the Council.

"This draft resolution calls for the following observations on the part of the Government of the Republic of Zaire:

"I. The thinking that emerges from a close scrutiny of this draft is that, in reality, it is aimed at:

"(a) Lifting the embargo on the supply of arms to Rwanda; and

"(b) Decreeing or imposing an embargo on Zaire and countries adjoining Rwanda.

"In the view of the Government of the Republic of Zaire, this approach is unacceptable, because:

"1. Today, owing to the turmoil created by the massive influx of Rwandan refugees into its territory, it is the security, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Zaire, not of Rwanda, that are being threatened.

"2. Rwanda lies at the origin of the heightened tension prevailing in the Great Lakes region, which could erupt at any moment, because that country is spurring a new flow of refugees towards Zaire while at the same

time obstructing the return of the refugees to Rwanda in dignity and safety.

"3. In general, Rwanda has not shown evidence of good faith in fulfilling its obligations under the tripartite agreement on the repatriation of Rwandan refugees signed at Kinshasa on 24 October 1994 by Zaire, Rwanda and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, and in particular, in fulfilling the obligation relating to the creation of security or reception zones within Rwanda in order to receive refugees from the camps set up in Zaire and to ensure their reintegration in safety and dignity.

"4. Rwanda is manifestly seeking to resolve its problems of scarcity of territory and overpopulation of arable lands as well as its inter-ethnic conflicts, to the detriment of its neighbours, through violence and methods that run counter to the rules of domestic and international law, including the expulsion of its nationals for political or ethno-tribal reasons.

"II. In order to attain the objectives of security and peace in the Great Lakes region, the Security Council should deplore the proliferation of weapons currently in circulation in a region that is also sensitive and in a state of heightened tension, and it should take vigorous measures to put an end to it, rather than lifting the embargo on the supply of arms and other matériel to Rwanda.

"The Security Council should give priority to the question of disarming the militias and other armed bands that are circulating in the countries of the Great Lakes region and sowing destruction, as they did recently in Virunga park, where a group of Italians working for the non-governmental organization Mundo Justo were killed by elements of the former Rwandan armed forces.

"III. The proposed lifting of the embargo may well help to ignite the Great Lakes region and East Africa.

"It is manifestly contrary to the objectives of peace and security pursued by the Security Council.

"IV. For all these reasons, the Government of the Republic of Zaire:

"1. Opposes the lifting of the embargo on the supply of arms to Rwanda, since that would aggravate the insecurity in the region and would carry with it the seeds of war;

"2. Rejects the idea of redeploying military observers to Zaire;

"3. Reiterates its support for the setting up of an international commission of inquiry under United Nations auspices with a view to conducting investigations into the supply of weapons to the former Rwandan armed forces and to verifying the truth of the allegations of engaging in destabilization activities. This commission would be able to supervise the

disarming of the armed bands by the regular armed forces of the country in Rwanda, Zaire, Burundi, Uganda and elsewhere;

"4. Undertakes to give its assistance to the United Nations international commission of inquiry;

"5. Reassures the entire international community and the Security Council that no State in Central Africa in general and the Great Lakes region in particular will be destabilized by Zaire or from Zaire, and certainly not with its assistance.

"Kinshasa, 9 August 1995

"(Signed) KAMANDA wa KAMANDA
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs"

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zaire would be grateful if you would have this note verbale distributed as a document of the Security Council.